

FOGLAND BEACH OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Post-Season Inspection Tour of Fogland Beach 20 September 2007

Members present: T. Ramotowski (Chairman), D. Merriman (Neighborhood Representative), and J. Cook (Recreation Commission).

Also present: A. Cruickshank

The 2007 post-season inspection tour of the Town-owned property at Fogland commenced at the bathhouse at 4:40 PM.

The condition of the bathhouse and the area around it was in general quite good. Mr. Cook indicated that it could use either a new paint job or new siding. Numerous tire tracks were present between the bathhouse and nearby beach dunes. Obviously, vehicles have been driving in this area.

Several severe winter storms had deposited a thick layer of gravel, sand and shells along the boundary of the beach and marsh along the shore of North Cove. Water had also breached the cul-de-sac at the end of the cul-de-sac road and deposited a considerable amount of sand and gravel into the cul-de-sac itself. Several of the boulders surrounding the cul-de-sac (to prevent cars from driving on the beach and/or in the surrounding salt marsh) had been undermined by the action of the storm waves and were now sitting in small depressions. The result of this storm wave activity is that some of the boulders now sit so low that they no longer present much of a barrier to vehicular traffic. Tire tracks were visible leading either to or from the end of the cul-de-sac and out to the beach beyond. The signs that had previously been located in the cul-de-sac area were noted to be on the ground or missing completely. The sign located to the northwest of the cul-de-sac was lying on the ground and needs to be re-erected. It was also noted that about 100 yards to the east of the cul-de-sac, a white wooden chair was sitting on the beach – it apparently was carried in by the tide.

The playground was in good shape.

The area where the DPW has spread out sand that had accumulated on the paved roadway was examined. This is the area where complaints have been received about the softness of the replaced sand being excessive and causing some vehicle parking in this location to become stuck. Some of the area immediately adjacent to the roadway was indeed found to be covered with a soft layer of sand. Mr. Merriman expressed concern that there wasn't enough space between the parking area and the mean high tide line for future loads of sand to

be spread without harming the beach vegetation. There were several areas along the paved roadway that had accumulated a significant amount of wind-blown sand.

The tour inspected the “wind-surfer beach at the western end of the North Cove shoreline. The unpaved roadway leading to this beach has continued to deteriorate and is difficult for vehicles to traverse. The past season’s storms had deposited significant amounts of sand and rock into portions of the salt marsh behind the “wind-surfer” beach.

It was noted that the number of mooring buoys located in the North Cove appears to have increased, and there are now three mooring buoys offset to the east from the main group and located much closer to the shore. Because of the separation of these buoys from the rest of the mooring field, Chairman Ramotowski questioned whether they were in legitimate locations. The Harbormaster will be contacted and asked to look into this matter.

The condition of the rest of the beach and conservation area was found to be good. The general status of the beach area with respect to litter was good. There were a few isolated pieces of litter here and there, but overall, the area was in good shape. The new policy of not providing trash barrels at Fogland seems to have worked – most visitors appear to have taken their garbage out with them when they departed.

The 2007 post-season Fogland Beach inspection tour ended at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

T. Ramotowski, Chairman